

Council Offices,  
STURMINSTER NEWTON,  
Dorset.

1st June, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members,  
Shaftesbury Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1947.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of Article 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935.

I am indebted to your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Breeds, for his co-operation and help during the year, and for his assistance in preparing this report, particularly in respect to the sanitary statistics for which he is responsible. I am also indebted to your Waterworks Manager, Mr. Burtt, for his co-operation during the year and his assistance in compiling the sections of this report dealing with the water supplies of the district, and to my clerk, Miss L. Davidge, for her efficient services during the year.

I would also like to thank you, Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

*Boy S. Perceval*

Medical Officer of Health.



THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
TO THE  
SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

for the year

1 9 4 7.

- A. Area - 42,000 acres.  
Rateable value - £39,398  
Production of a penny rate - £175. 10. 4.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 8,518

LIVE BIRTHS -

	Male.	Female		Comparative figures for	
				(a) North Dorset	(B) England & Wales.
Total (163)	90	73	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 19.1		
Legitimate	80	70			
Illegitimate	10	3			
				19.7	20.5

STILLBIRTHS -

Total (4)	3	1	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 0.4	0.3	0.5
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DEATHS -

Total (114)	48	66	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 13.3	14.2	12.0
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Deaths in infants under 1 year - 2			Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births - 12.2	33.8	41.0
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Deaths from Maternal causes - Nil.  
" " diarrhoea in infants - Nil.  
" " road traffic accidents - 1  
" " other violent causes - 4

B. Personal Health Services in the district.

In view of the impending operation of the National Health Service Act 1946 in July next, for record purposes, it is considered worth while noting the present medical arrangements in the district.

Private Medical Practice -

There are 7 Medical Practitioners practicing wholly or in part in the district.

Professional Nursing in the home -

Under arrangements made by the Dorset County Nursing Association 3 District Nurses are resident in the district.

General Hospital Facilities -

There is no hospital within the district. Patients requiring general hospital treatment go to the Westminster Memorial Hospital, Shaftesbury, Yeatman Hospital, Sherborne, County Hospital, Dorchester or the Salisbury General Infirmary.

## Ambulance Facilities -

One Ambulance is provided by the Gillingham District Ambulance Committee. In addition, the Ambulance provided by the St. Johns Ambulance Brigade, stationed in Shaftesbury, gives some additional cover for the district. The Ambulance of the North Dorset Joint Hospital Board, stationed in Sherborne, provides facilities for the transport of cases of infectious disease.

## Midwifery Services -

The Dorset County Council, through the agency of the County Nursing Association, provides domiciliary midwifery services. 3 District Nurse/Midwives are resident in the district.

Maternity cases requiring admission to hospital are admitted under the County Scheme to the Westminster Memorial Hospital, Shaftesbury.

## Nursing Homes -

There is one registered nursing home in the district providing accommodation for 16 convalescent children.

## Laboratory Services -

The Dorset County Laboratory (a laboratory in association with the Medical Research Council) provides full laboratory facilities for the district.

A mortuary providing adequate facilities for carrying out post mortem examinations is provided by the Gillingham Parish Council.

## Tuberculosis -

The Tuberculosis Service is provided by the Dorset County Council. The nearest available clinics are at Dorchester and Poole.

## Venereal Disease -

The Venereal Disease Service is provided by the Dorset County Council. The nearest diagnostic and treatment clinics are held at Poole, Dorchester and Salisbury.

## School Health Service -

These are provided by the Dorset County Council. There are no school minor ailment clinics held in the district, nor are school nursing staff available for attendance, with the Medical Officer, at routine school medical inspections.

## Child Welfare -

Child Welfare provision is made by the Dorset County Council. 1 health visitor is resident in the district. A Voluntary Child Welfare Centre is held weekly in Gillingham.

## Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district.

### 1. SANITARY STAFF.

#### Sanitary Inspectors -

W.E. Breeds, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., C.S.I.B., Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and meat and other foods. Senior Sanitary Inspector.

W.N. Teasdale, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and meat and other foods. Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Lt.Col. Sealy Green, M.R.C.V.S. - part-time Sanitary Inspector for the purpose of meat inspection.



Clerical Staff -

. One full time shorthand typist.

2. WATER SUPPLY.

The shortage in supply in the districts where there are no adequate mains distribution service, referred to in my report for last year, was again experienced during 1947. Progress was, however, made toward augmenting the Council's supplies as detailed below:-

Stubhampton. The new bore at Stubhampton was completed and the test pumping proved satisfactory, 20,000 gallons per hour of water being obtained which gave satisfactory results on chemical and bacteriological examination. Work on the second borehole was in progress at the end of the year.

Bourton Supply. This private supply was taken over in April and used throughout the year. I have to record my regret that although I could only agree to the use by the Council of this bacteriologically impure private supply providing it was adequately chlorinated, chlorination of the supply had not been effected by the end of the year.

Gillingham and More Joint Supply. Progress was made in connection with the sinking of the new bore at More.

New Housing. New mains were laid in connection with the new housing sites at Lodbourne, Gillingham and at Kington Magna.

New Connections. New connections were provided as follows:-

(i)	For domestic use	-	41
(ii)	for agricultural purposes	-	9

Details of domestic supply in the district -

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>No. of houses supplied by -</u>			<u>No water</u>	<u>Derelict</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>Mains supply</u>	<u>Outside</u>	<u>Spring or</u>	<u>supply.</u>	<u>or dem-</u>	
	<u>inside.</u>	<u>standpipes.</u>	<u>well.</u>		<u>olished.</u>	
ASHMORE	20	27	5	-	3	55
BOURTON	115	48	20	1	3	187
BUCKHORN WESTON	77	10	2	3	3	95
CANN	91	12	2	-	-	105
COMPTON ABBAS	36	7	13	1	1	58
EAST ORCHARD	18	8	7	2	-	35
EAST STOUR	75	37	3	2	1	118
FONTMELL MAGNA	100	24	11	1	-	136
GILLINGHAM	662	199	8	1	14	884
IWERNE MINSTER	114	4	7	2	2	129
KINGTON MAGNA	41	38	8	8	5	100
MARGARET MARSH	9	2	-	1	1	13
MELBURY ABBAS	49	19	8	-	-	76
MOTCOMBE	142	49	3	1	2	197
SILTON	13	24	2	1	2	42
STOUR PROVOST	99	28	9	2	4	142
SUTTON WALDRON	23	7	15	-	-	45
TODBER	22	4	3	-	-	29
WEST ORCHARD	14	9	-	-	-	23
WEST STOUR	-	-	36	1	-	37
TOTAL	-	1720	556	27	41	2506
PERCENTAGE	-	68.6%	22.2%	1.1%	1.6%	

Water examination, details of samples taken during the year -

Bacteriological.

Sample taken.

Melbury Abbas Public Supply

Stubhampton New Borehole Public Supply

9  
3

Sample taken.

Chemical.

### 3. SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE.

#### 4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

	t.	c.	q.		t.	c.	q.
Paper	28.	14.	3.	Mixed rags	3.	6.	2.
Cardboard	13.	12.	-.	Brass		2.	1½
Newspaper	2.	8.	-.	Aluminium		1.	3.
Books	3.	7.	2.	Lead			3.
Heavy Scrap	17.	2.	3.	Copper			1½
Bagging	3.	8.	2.	Bones	2.	4.	1.
Jars	1.	10.	2.				
							TOTAL - 76 tons.

## 5. RIVERS & STREAMS POLLUTION.

- 4 -



6. SHOPS ACT.

No inspections were carried out under the Shops Acts during the year.

7. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Details of the inspections carried out under this Act, together with defects found and action taken are summarised below:-

	No. of premises on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	10	10	3	Nil.
Factories not included in the above.	24	24	10	Nil.
Total -	34	34	13	Nil.

Number of cases in which defects were -

	Found.	Remedied.
Sanitary Conveniences:		
(a) insufficient	4	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	10	6
(c) not separate for sexes	2	-
Total -	16	6

No. of outworkers - 108

No. of cases of default in sending outworkers' lists to Council - Nil.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was called for in this connection.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is only one swimming bath in the district to which the public have access. Supervisory action was undertaken in respect to this bath during the year.

10. CAMPING SITES.

There are no licensed camping sites in the district.

11. VERMINOUS ETC., PREMISES.

Action was taken during the year in respect to one house found to be unclean.

12. RATS & MICE.

Rodent Control in the district is carried out under arrangements made by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee. The salvage depot and the refuse tip at Gillingham have been treated with poison bait throughout the year as also have the sewers at Gillingham. In addition, the following infestations have been treated throughout the district:-

Motcombe (6), Gillingham (32), Bourton (20), Buckhorn Weston (6), Kingston Magna (4), Fontmell Magna (6), Iwerne Minster (6), Miscellaneous (30).

13. RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 - 1922.

No action has been called for or taken during the year.

14. SANITARY INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

Sanitation. Particularly unsatisfactory conservancy methods were found to exist at the Buckhorn Weston and Fontmell Magna Primary Schools. In spite of representations the conditions remained unchanged at the end of the year.

School Canteens. The two School Canteens at Gillingham were inspected during the year.

15. HOUSING.

The inadequate housing of the population of the district has again given rise to much consideration during the year. The Preliminary Housing Survey completed during the year and the subject of a Special Report to you toward the end of the year, shows quite clearly the low standard of housing in the district and demonstrates what action is necessary if new agricultural labour is to be attracted to the district and old labour retained.

Whilst new housing has a large part to play the re-conditioning of old sub-standard property, which can be made in all respects fit for human habitation, is equally necessary.

Until comparatively recently a Medical Officer of Health concerned with unsatisfactory housing conditions in his area was more disposed to consider the effects of bad housing on the physical rather than the mental health of those living under unsatisfactory conditions. At the present time, whilst many persons are still living in damp, insanitary houses detrimental to their physical health, I find myself, more and more, concerned with that equally large group of persons being forced to live in circumstances which can only be calculated to have serious effects on their mental health and happiness.

Many persons in this group are newly married couples who do not enjoy the happy advantage of starting their new life in a home of their own. Many of these are having to live in unsatisfactory furnished rooms at a rent beyond their capacity. Others are forced to share a home with their 'in-laws'. In some instances this arrangement works satisfactorily, but only too often it leads to that friction and mental strife which undermines an otherwise happy relationship with disastrous results to both parents and children alike.

1. House Inspection.

The preliminary housing survey of "working class" houses in the district commenced in 1946 was completed in 1947 after which the findings of the survey were presented to you in a Special Report toward the end of the year.

The provisional classification of the houses inspected was as follows:-

Total number inspected 2506.

Cat. 1. Satisfactory	326	}	1003 (40%)
Cat. 2. Requiring minor repairs	677		

These houses are fit for human habitation in their present state.

Cat. 3. Requiring minor repair, alteration or improvement.	796 (31.8%)
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These houses could only be considered fit for human habitation if certain repairs and improvements were made and which could be made at reasonable cost, bearing in mind the normal value of the house. Such repairs include the provision of adequate water services, drainage and/or repairs to the structure of a lesser nature.

Cat. 4. Appropriate for re-conditioning	354	}	707 (28.2%)
Cat. 5. Unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost	353		

These 707 houses are ones which by reason of disrepair or sanitary defects are unfit for human habitation and which cannot be rendered fit at reasonable cost, and should normally be subject to Closing, Demolition or Clearance Orders



The 354 houses, in category 4 are, however, saveable by re-conditioning under such provisions as were made in the old Rural Workers (Housing) Acts, now no longer in operation.

Statistical details regarding House Inspections -

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts)	2205
No. of inspections made for the purpose	2535
No. of informal notices served	143
" " " complied with	52
No. of Statutory notices served	24
" " " complied with	13
No. of houses 'officially represented' or 'reported' under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936	17
Action taken by the Local Authority in respect to such houses -	

Undertakings accepted for:-

Re-conditioning.....	5
Closure.....	1
Demolition Orders made.....	3
Consideration deferred 12 months.....	1
Action still pending at end of the year.....	7

2. Overcrowding.

No. of cases of 'Statutory overcrowding' found and reported to Local Authority	38
No. of cases of overcrowding abated	7
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil.

3. Provision of New Houses.

No. of new houses provided by Local Authority	12			
	Temporary Prefab.	Swedish Timber.	Traditional Type.	Other.
) During 1947	-	8	8	Airey { 2
) Post-War	-	10	8	

4. Re-housing.

<sup>62</sup>  
~~21~~ houses were held under requisition by the Council at the end of the year.  
 2 houses on which demolition or closing orders had been made were occupied under licence at the end of the year.

Total number of families re-housed during the year by the Local Authority in new or existing houses	47
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16. INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk Production & Distribution.

From the following tabulated reports it will be seen that whilst the majority of milk producers in the district produce undesignated milk and therefore the District Council is alone responsible for the sanitary conditions under which the milk is produced, little more than half of these farms and dairies were inspected during the year, although in 115 inspection contravention of the regulations with regard to registration or clean milk production was found in 109 cases.

It will also be noticed that no sampling of milk was carried out during the year although the Council is responsible for the supervision of cleanliness of all milk retailed in the district.

(a) Milk & Dairies Order, 1926.

No. of farms in the district registered for milk production	327
No. of farms producing designated milk	
(a) T.T.	48
(b) Accredited	67
No. of farms producing non-designated milk	212
No. registered dairymen (cowkeepers and milk sellers)	331
No. registered as wholesale	293
"                "                retailers	4
"                "                wholesale and retailers	34

(b) Cowsheds and Milk Shops.

No. of inspections made during the year	115
No. of cases in which contravention of the regulations were found	109
No. of prosecutions undertaken	1

(c) Milk (Special Designation Order) 1936 - 1941.

No. of licences granted during the year -

Tuberculin Tested -

Dealers	2
Supplementary	-

Pasteurised -

Dealers	2
Supplementary	-

(d) Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year -

Tuberculin Tested	Nil
Accredited	Nil
Pasteurised	Nil.

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	55
No. of such premises inspected during the year	17
No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	15
No. of such premises inspected during the year	15
No. of samples of ice cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue test	
Results - Grade 1 (1); Grade 2 (1); Grade 3 (5); Grade 4 (1).	

In past reports I have had to draw your notice to the lack of attention given to your statutory obligations in respect of the sanitary supervision of places used for the preparation etc., of food. I can now report that some progress was made during the year under consideration. It is difficult, however, to see how the recently proposed reduction in your sanitary staff will not prevent this essentially important duty being carried out with the thoroughness and efficiency it demands.

Meat Inspection.

(a) Slaughterhouses -

Carcases inspected & condemned.

Number killed (if known)	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number inspected	14,237
	14,237

All diseases except Tuberculosis.

Pigs.

Whole carcass condemned6

Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned-

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses condemned60

Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned1,111

Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis8.4

(b) Shops.

quantities condemned -

	<u>lbs.</u>
Fresh meat	115. 0.
Sausages and sausage meat	12. 0.
Frozen rabbit	7. 0.
Tinned meat	11. 6.
Bacon	2. 25.
Total -	147. 85.

Other Foods.

quantities condemned as unfit for consumption -

	<u>lbs.</u>		<u>lbs.</u>
Tinned milk	93. 35.	Tinned grapefruit	10. 00
" fish	43. 75.	" syrup	4. 00
" fish paste	16. 90.	Fish (wet)	112. 00
" soup	75.	Butter	169. 50
" vegetables	10. 75.	Sugar	20. 00
" beans	5. 00.	Prunes	1. 00
Oranges	840. 00.	Total -	1,327 lbs.

17. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out7

No. of disinfections carried out5

18. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)3778

No. of Informal notices served291

No. of Informal notices complied with160

No. of Statutory notices served70

No. of Statutory notices complied with58

No. of prosecutions3

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Incidence

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Cases Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Scarlet fever	10	9	-
Measles	127	-	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	1	-	-
Cerebro spinal meningitis	1	1	-
Whooping cough	31	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	42	42	-



127 cases of measles were notified during the year as compared with 9 cases in the previous year. The incidents were greatest during the first quarter of the year.

Two cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis occurred, one of these was a normal resident in the district, the other case, a visitor to the district, had contracted the infection elsewhere. Both cases were admitted to hospital (under the arrangements made by the North Dorset Joint Hospital Board) and were subsequently discharged with little residual paralysis.

#### Protection against Diphtheria.

The number of children who received treatment during the year is as follows:-

Under 5 years of age.

5 - 14 years of age.

111

12

The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 139 and 39.

The 111 children (under 5 years of age) protected as compared with the number of births in the preceding year (147) suggests that a sufficient number of new babies are being protected to maintain the percentage number of children protected at a reasonably satisfactory figure. Nevertheless, there is room for improvement until every child born is protected during its first year of life.

During the year you extended the scope of your scheme to provide for the giving of a 'reinforcing' injection at the time of school entry to children previously protected during their earlier years.

In order to draw the attention of all parents to the need of this 'reinforcing' treatment and in order to emphasise to parents of children who had not already been protected, the value of treatment being given on school entry, arrangements were made with the Food Executive Officer for a suitable pamphlet to be issued with the new ration book issued to all children reaching the age of five years.

#### Tuberculosis.

<u>New cases notified.</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>	
<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
3	1	1	-

NOLL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.